



A GUIDE TO

U.S.

ARMY INSIGNIA

A N D D E C O R A T I O N S



WITH OVER 160 ILLUSTRATIONS
IN COLOR

REVISED EDITION



Kentucky Historical Society

Positions of Insignia on Army Uniforms



Commissioned Officer,
All Arms and Services
Except Air Force



Air Force Officer



Warrant Officer



Enlisted Man
(First Sergeant with
Service Stripes)

(The Sam Browne belt is no longer purchased but may be worn.)

A Guide to
U. S. ARMY
INSIGNIA and DECORATIONS

By GORDON A. J. PETERSEN

Revised edition prepared with the assistance of
LIEUT. ROBERT H. RANKIN, St. John's Military Academy

With over 160 illustrations in color

ALPHABETICAL INDEX ON PAGE 60

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The U. S. Army

ALTHOUGH the U. S. Army has come a long way from the ragged Continentals who won the Revolution, this country's military system is still unique among those of the world's great nations. It is based on the principle of civilian control of military policies and finances, exercised through Congress, the President, and the War Department. Actual command and operation of the Army are entrusted to military men who have made the profession of arms their life work. These commanders won their commissions by graduation from the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, by coming from civilian life as members of the National Guard or the Organized Reserves, or by enlisting and rising from the ranks. Their position in civilian life has

value if it means experience in a technical or specialized field.

The Army's chief function is the land defense of the United States and such other territory as the government considers vital to this country's safety. Recent events have shown that a nation fully equipped for war is much more likely to continue as a free and independent state than one which neglects national defense. This has been the thought behind the two major laws under which the Army and its Reserve forces have been developed since the World War—the National Defense Act of 1916, as amended in 1920, and the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended in 1941.

Under these laws, the Army of the United States consists of three parts—the

The U. S. Army (*Continued*)

Regular Army or permanent military force, the National Guard or state militia, and the Organized Reserves or civilians who have had military training. The last two bodies may be called (as they were in 1940) into Federal Service. Under the Selective Service Act, civilians are drafted and trained as they are needed by the Army in order to bring all units to full strength.

The United States has never maintained a huge Army. However, as the present war grew in scope, it was realized that the small military force which had charge of National Defense from 1919 to 1940 would not be adequate. At the beginning of 1942, the strength of the Army was 1,700,000 men, scheduled to reach 4,500,000 by the end of 1942. It may be expanded even more if necessary.



Cap Insignia, Commissioned Officer



Cap Insigne, Commissioned Officer

Kentucky Historical Society

Cap and Lapel Insignia

(For details see page 20)



Officer's "U. S."



Enlisted Man's "U. S."



Cap Insignia,
Warrant Officer



Cap Insignia, Cadet,
U. S. Military Academy



Cap Insignia,
Enlisted Man



Warrant Officer's Bars
Above, Chief; Below, Junior

Army Organization

Moderate military organizations are run along the lines of a large industrial concern—a Chain of Command from the high executives down to the workmen, with expert assistants and counselors to help. The only real difference is in the names and titles. Since the Army is a big business, it has to have many “departments,” “executives,” and “employees.” Because the clothing worn by Army members is so much alike, various ornaments, or insignia, have been devised to distinguish men in one group from those in another.

Reorganization of the War Department shortly after our entrance into the war divided all forces into three commands—Army Air Forces, Army Ground Forces, and Services of Supply, each headed by

a Lieutenant General, who is responsible to the Chief of Staff. In addition, the General Staff maintains its important functions, divided as follows: G-1 (personnel), G-2 (intelligence), G-3 (operations and training), G-4 (supply), and the War Plans Division.

The heads of the three Army commands and other high commanders have their own staff officers and special troops for expert advice and aid in various fields. Officers of special troops and staff officers do not participate directly in the Chain of Command, which extends figuratively from the President, who is Commander-in-Chief, to each soldier. Staff and special officers advise and assist their commanders; the latter must make all decisions.

The Army's Chain of Command

THESE ARE COMMANDERS

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS	President (commander-in-chief)
	General of the Armies*
	General (commanding a field army)**
	Lieutenant General (commanding a corps)
	Major General (commanding a division)***
	Brigadier General (commanding a brigade or wing)
	Colonel (commanding a regiment, or Air Forces Group)
	Lieutenant Colonel (commanding a battalion)
	Major (commanding battalion or Air Forces squadron)
	Captain (commanding company, troop, battery, or flight)****
	First Lieutenant (commanding platoon or sub-flight)
	Second Lieutenant (commanding platoon)
	Warrant Officer
NON- COMMISSIONED OFFICERS	Sergeant (auxiliary commissioned officers, or commanding section)
	Corporal (commanding squad)
	SEN

The Army's Chain of Command

THESE ADVISE AND ASSIST COMMANDERS

• • • •	aided by	• • • • •	Secretary of War
• • • •	aided by	• • • • •	Chief of Staff ^{*****}
• • • •	aided by	• • • •	Staff and Special Troops
• • • •	aided by	• • • •	Staff and Special Troops
• • • •	aided by	• • • •	Staff and Special Troops
• • • •	aided by	• • • •	Staff and Special Troops
• • • •	aided by	• • • • •	Special Troops
• • • •	aided by	• • • • •	Special Troops
• • • •	aided by	• • • • •	Special Troops

* If a supreme commander of land forces is desired.

** A force capable of complete independent operations.

*** Smallest force containing all Arms and Services.

**** Smallest unit having technical and administrative functions.

***** Aided by Chiefs of Air Forces, Ground Forces, and Services of Supply, and the General Staff.

Arms and Services

Insignia and Functions

BECAUSE a modern army embraces almost every activity of man, it requires the services of thousands of officers and men who have specialized training. Thus, certain experience and skill may mean higher grade and pay for soldiers having them, the same as in civilian life, where special qualifications mean advancement. The Army provides education and training for men wishing to qualify for specialists' ratings.

The Army divides its branches into the *Arms*, or combat units, and the *Services*, which are the administrative, technical, and supply units. However, the distinctions between them are often sketchy, since in modern warfare, because of the speed, dis-

tance, and mobility featuring military operations, all units are actually front line troops. Services are attached to the units of the Arms as conditions require. There are also several miscellaneous branches of the Army not technically included in either Arms or Services.

Certain insignia are worn by all Army men regardless of the Arm or Service to which they are attached. Cap insignia for officers, warrant officers, enlisted men, and cadets at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point are shown on pages 5 and 6. For coat lapels, or shirt collars when the coat is not worn, officers wear the block letters, "U.S."

(Continued on page 12)

Insignia of U. S. Army Commands



Services of Supply



Army Ground Forces



Army Air Forces

Arms and Services (*Continued*)

Enlisted men and non-commissioned officers wear the "U.S." superimposed on a round disc (p. 6). For members of the National Guard, state abbreviations are placed over the "U.S." for both officers and men. The new shoulder bars for Warrant Officers, Chief and Junior Grade, are also shown on page 6.

Insignia of the Arms and Services are usually obvious in their meaning, such as crossed rifles of the Infantry, crossed sabers of the Cavalry, the flaming shell of the Ordnance Department, or the sword, key, and wheel of the Quartermaster Corps. Enlisted men's branch insignia are superimposed on gold-colored discs, in the same way that the "U.S." of enlisted men is handled. When men are assigned to a

regiment, regimental numbers are added above or below the insignia.

Each Arm and Service has colors, worn in the cord of the service hat. Most of the insignia shown on the following pages are worn either on the coat lapels, or on the left side of the shirt collar when the coat is not worn. Aviation and parachute badges are worn on the left breast. Insignia of the three Army Commands (p. 11) are cloth shoulder patches.

Services of Supply—Under the reorganization of the Army into three departments, Services of Supply, Army Air Forces, and Army Ground Forces, certain old insignia were assigned to these sections of the armed forces. The former War Department Overhead insignia is now used by the

(Continued on page 14)

Insignia of Arms and Services—Plate I



Infantry



Parachute Troops



Cavalry



Field Artillery



Armored Force



Coast Artillery

Arms and Services (*Continued*)

Services of Supply, a blue star on a white background with a red border (p. 11).

Army Ground Forces—The former General Headquarters insignie, a circle with bands of blue, white and red (p. 11).

Army Air Forces—A blue circular background with gold wings and a white star with a red ball in the center (p. 11). Although the red ball has been dropped from aircraft wing insignia, it remains in the Army Air Forces insignie.

ARMS

Infantry—Basic unit of the Army; Mission is to win and keep ground. *Weapons*: Rifle, bayonet, machine gun, mortar, 37 mm. gun. *Color*: Light blue. *Insignie*: Crossed rifles (p. 13).

Parachute Troops—Not really a separate Arm, these specially trained troops constitute a part of the Infantry. They are dropped in enemy territory by parachute to destroy or seize vital buildings and strategic locations in order to hamper the enemy's defense and pave the way for other U. S. troops. *Weapons*: Rifle, pistol, machine gun. *Insignie* (*worn as a badge on the left breast*): Silver parachute and wings (p. 13).

Cavalry—Combat unit possessing range and power; moving by horse or motor vehicle, according to the terrain. Seizes territory for the Infantry, or raids enemy territory. *Weapons*: Pistol, rifle, machine gun, anti-tank gun. *Color*: Yellow. *Insignie*: Crossed sabers (p. 13).

(Continued on page 16)

Insignia of Arms and Services—Plate II



Command Pilot



Air Forces Insignia



Senior Pilot



Bombardier



Pilot



Combat Observer

Arms and Services (*Continued*)

Field Artillery—Function is to clear the way for Infantry or Cavalry, or to defend ground, by shelling the enemy. *Weapons*: Cannon. *Color*: Scarlet. *Insignia*: Crossed cannon (p. 13).

Coast Artillery Corps—Function is defense against enemy warships and aircraft. *Weapons*: Anti-aircraft guns, cannon, controlled mines. *Color*: Scarlet. *Insignia*: Crossed cannon with shell in center (p. 13). Men of the important Army Mine Planter Service wear insignia which are the same as those worn in the Coast Artillery, with the addition of a mine case in the lower angle of the crossed cannon. Warrant Officers of this Service wear insignia of grade somewhat different from those of other Warrant Officers.

Armored Force—Combat unit containing men from several Arms. Has great speed, striking- and fire-power. Mission is to break up enemy forces and seize territory. *Weapons*: Tank, armed with machine guns and cannon. *Insignia*: Tank, the same as that formerly used by the Tank Corps except that the crossed rifles have been eliminated. *Color*: Green and white. (p. 13).

Air Forces—Actually, a long-distance projection of the functions of Cavalry and Artillery—shelling (bombing), scouting and raiding. *Weapons*: Bomb, machine gun, light cannon. *Color*: Ultramarine blue and golden orange. *Insignia*: Wings and propeller (p. 15).

Aviation badges, worn on the left breast, denote the particular duty of the wearer, as follows:

(Continued on page 16)

Insignia of Arms and Services—Plate III



Glider
Pilot



Flight
Surgeon



Balloon
Pilot



Senior
Balloon
Pilot



Balloon
Observer



Technical Observer

Arms and Services (*Continued*)

Command Pilot—A pair of silver wings about $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches from tip to tip, with the shield of the United States (without stars) at the center of the wings, plus a star and wreath above the shield (p. 15).

Senior Pilot—The same as for command pilot without the wreath encircling the star (p. 15).

Pilot—The same as for senior pilot except that the star is also eliminated, showing only wings and shield (p. 15).

Bombardier—At the center of the wings, a drop bomb, point down, superimposed on a circular target (p. 15). Navigators wear similar badges, with an artillery sphere centered between the wings.

Combat Observer—Silver wings with the letter "O" at the center (p. 15).

Balloon Pilot—Silver wings with a balloon at the center (p. 17).

Balloon Observer—Silver wings with the letter "O" superimposed on the balloon at the center of the wings (p. 17).

Senior Balloon Pilot—Same as for balloon pilot with the addition of a star above the balloon (p. 17).

Technical Observer—The letter "O" in front of the letter "T" at the center of the wings (p. 17).

Glider Pilot—At the center of the wings, the letter "G" in relief against the shield of the United States (p. 17). (Service pilots and Liaison pilots wear the same badges, but with the letters "S" and "L" on the shields).

Flight Surgeon—Silver wings with the

(Continued on page 28)

Insignia of Arms and Services—Plate IV



Ordnance Department



Signal Corps



Medical Department



Corps of Engineers



Quartermaster
Corps



Chemical Warfare

Arms and Services (Continued)

caduceus of the Medical Corps at the center (p. 17).

SERVICES

Medical Department—Has charge of the Army's health and the care of the sick and injured. *Color*: Maroon and white. *Insigne*: A caduceus, or Mercury's staff. Members of this unit other than medical men add the following letters to the insignie: D (Dental), V (Veterinary), A (Administrative), N (Nursing), S (Sanitary Corps). (p. 19).

Signal Corps—Mission is to construct and operate all forms of communications systems for other units. *Weapon*: Pistol. *Color*: Orange and white. *Insigne*: Crossed signal flags on either side of a torch (p. 19).

Corps of Engineers—Mission is to aid movement of other units by building and repairing engineering works. *Weapons*: Pistol and rifle. *Color*: Scarlet and white. *Insigne*: A castle (p. 19).

Ordnance Department—Has charge of manufacture and maintenance of firearms and ammunition. *Color*: Crimson and yellow. *Insigne*: A flaming shell (p. 19).

Quartermaster Corps—Has charge of supply and transportation. *Color*: Buff. *Insigne*: Wheel and eagle, crossed with sword and key (p. 19).

Chemical Warfare—Has charge of preparation for defense against enemy gas and smoke screens, and the development of chemicals for the U. S. Army's use. The Army's policy has been not to use poison—

(Continued on page 22)

Insignia of Arms and Services—Plate V



Judge Advocate General



Finance Department



Adjutant General



Inspector General



Corps of Chaplains,
Christian and Jewish



Military Police

Arms and Services (*Continued*)

ous chemicals as long as the enemy refrains from doing so. *Color*: Cobalt blue and golden yellow. *Insignie*: Crossed retorts and benzol ring (p. 19).

Judge Advocate General—Acts as the Army's legal department. *Color*: Dark blue and light blue. *Insignie*: Pen and sword crossed on a wreath (p. 21).

Inspector General's Department—Mission is to visit and inspect Army units for efficiency and discipline. *Color*: Dark blue and white. *Insignie*: Crossed sword and fasces under a wreath (p. 21).

Corps of Chaplains—Christian and Jewish clergymen attached to Army units to minister to the spiritual and morale needs of men. *Color*: Black. *Insignia* (*Christian*):

Silver Cross; (*Jewish*): Mosaic tablets and the star of David (p. 21).

Finance Department—Has charge of all Army finances including pay. *Color*: Silver gray and golden yellow. *Insignie*: Diamond (p. 21).

MISCELLANEOUS

Military Police—Duties are to maintain order wherever members of the armed forces may be. *Insignie*: Crossed pistols (p. 21).

General Staff Officers—Advise and assist the commanding officers to whose staffs they are attached. *Color*: Gold and black. *Insignie*: the national coat of arms on a silver star (p. 23).

Unassigned Officers—Usually specialists not assigned to any particular Arm or
(Continued on page 24)

Insignia of Arms and Services—Plate VI



Member of General's Staff



National Guard Bureau



Band Officer



Major General's Aide



Unassigned Officer

Arms and Services (*Continued*)

Service. Insignie: the coat of arms of the United States enclosed within a ring (p. 23).

Adjutant General — Administrative and "paper work" unit of the Army. *Color:* Dark blue. *Insignie:* Shield in the national colors (p. 21).

General's Aide—Officers serving as aides to generals wear insignia consisting of a shield and an eagle. The shield has 13 vertical stripes of red and white, and the blue field contains stars the number of which depends upon the rank of the general served. Brigadier General—1 star, Major General—2 stars, Lieutenant General—3 stars, General—4 stars (p. 23).

National Guard Bureau — *Color:* Dark blue. *Insignie:* An eagle crossed with fasces, all of gold (p. 23).

Band Officer—Wears an insignie consisting of a lyre, or harp. Members of the U. S. Army Band wear the letters "U.S." superimposed on the lyre (p. 23).

Military Intelligence—Mission is to obtain information about the enemy and his activities, and to be of help in Army public relations. *Color:* Golden yellow and violet. *Insignie:* A shield bearing a sphinx. This insignie is not pictured because it is no longer worn by members of Army Intelligence since, in wartime, it too readily reveals the identity and purposes of the wearer. Many officers have adopted the Infantry insignie.

Insignia of Service Commands

(See explanation on pages 26-28)



First Service
Command



Second Service
Command



Third Service
Command



Fourth Service
Command



Fifth Service
Command



Sixth Service
Command



Seventh Service
Command



Eighth Service
Command



Ninth Service
Command

Insignia of Army Units

THE U. S. Army, as shown on pages 8-9, is divided into various tactical units, starting with the Squad, and growing progressively larger until the biggest unit, the Field Army, is reached. Many of these larger forces have crests and shields, made of cloth and worn at the left shoulder, or of enameled metal, worn on the coat lapels or shoulder loops. As the Army expands and new units are created, new insignia are designed.

Several of the units have acquired insignia of a humorous character, some of them designed by the Walt Disney Studios, at the special request of the units desiring them. Examples of a few of these are shown on pages 45 and 46, all of which may not yet have been officially adopted.

On pages 44 and 45 are shown representative examples of regimental insignia. There are several hundreds of these crests in use. New regimental and divisional insignia are being adopted as new units are formed.

The Army Ground Forces insignia on page 11 is the same as the "GHQ" insignia used during the World War, in France. The American Expeditionary Force in Europe had several other distinctive insignia, such as the coursing greyhound, for its postal service, and the polar bear for the expedition to northern Russia. The Camouflage Corps had a chameleon for its crest.

The country is divided into nine Service Commands, formerly called Corps Areas. The heads of the Service Commands, act-

(Continued on page 28)

Insignia of the Armies



First Army



Second Army



Third Army



Fourth Army

Insignia of Army Units (*Continued*)

ing under the Commanding General, Services of Supply, have charge of the administration and housekeeping of all troops in their geographical areas. They supervise the Army camps and posts, service the troops with supplies and equipment, and induct the new selectees. (Insignia on p. 25.)

The First Service Command, with headquarters at Boston, consists of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. The Second Service Command, with headquarters at New York, embraces New York, New Jersey, and Delaware. The Third Service Command, with headquarters at Baltimore, covers Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia. The Fourth Service Command, with headquarters at Atlanta, consists of North and South Car-

olina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi. The Fifth Service Command is based at Columbus, Ohio, and covers West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. The Sixth Service Command, with headquarters at Chicago, embraces Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan. The Seventh Service Command, based at Omaha, consists of Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and Colorado. The Eighth Service Command, with headquarters at San Antonio, Texas, covers Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, and Louisiana. The Ninth Service Command has headquarters at Fort Douglas, Utah, and covers California, Nevada, Utah, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Arizona. Alaska, garrisoned by the Alaska

(Continued on page 10)

Insignia of Army Corps—Plate I



First Corps



Second Corps



Third Corps



Fourth Corps



Fifth Corps



Sixth Corps



Seventh Corps

Insignia of Army Units (*Continued*)

Defense Force, has been attached to the Ninth Service Command.

There are Army Departments at Puerto Rico, Canal Zone, Hawaii, Philippines.

The General Headquarters Air Force, combat and tactical unit of the Army Air Forces, provides an aviation unit which can be dispatched to aid various ground forces of the Army as the situation requires. Its commandant is usually a Lieutenant General or a Major General.

The largest unit of the Army of the United States, the Field Army, consists of between 200,000 and 400,000 men, and is commanded by a General or a Lieutenant General. Present Army plans call for four Field Armies. (Insignia on p. 27.)

An Army Corps, which is a body of men next in size to the Field Army, contains

between 65,000 and 90,000 men and is commanded by a Lieutenant General or a Major General. (See pages 29, 31.) It is not to be confused with the former Corps Areas or with certain branches of the Army, such as Signal Corps, Medical Corps, etc.

A Division consists of about 12,500 men and is commanded by a Major General. The Infantry Division is the basic fighting unit of any army. The new "triangle" Infantry Division contains three Infantry and two Field Artillery Regiments, as well as special troops, such as Quartermaster, Medical, and Ordnance. Cavalry Divisions have troops of that Arm as their basic units. (Insignia on pages 33-43.)

A Brigade contains from 5,000 to 6,500 men, and is commanded by a Brigadier

(Continued on page 32)

Insignia of Army Corps—Plate II



Eighth
Corps



Ninth Corps



Eleventh
Corps



Twelfth Corps



Thirteenth Corps



Fourteenth Corps



First Armored Corps

Insignia of Army Units (*Continued*)

General, and is used by the Infantry, Cavalry, Field Artillery, and Coast Artillery. The corresponding Army Air Forces unit is the Wing.

A Regiment, consisting of between 800 and 3,000 men, is commanded by a Colonel, and is found in all the Arms and many of the Services. The corresponding air unit is the Group.

A Battalion consists of from 300 to 800 men, and is commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel or a Major. In the Cavalry and Army Air Forces, Battalions are called Squadrons.

A Company contains from 80 to 200 men, is commanded by a Captain, and is the smallest unit capable of independent operations. In the Field Artillery and Coast Artillery the corresponding unit is the

Battery; in the Cavalry, the Troop; in the air, the Flight.

The Platoon, commanded by a First or a Second Lieutenant, is the smallest unit to be headed by a commissioned officer. It contains from 40 to 60 men. The corresponding air term is Sub-flight.

The Section, up to 25 men, is commanded by a Sergeant.

The Squad, the smallest unit of an Army, consists of 12 men or less, and is commanded by a Corporal.

Armored Divisions have insignia similar to that of the First Armored Corps (see p. 31) except that the Division Arabic numeral replaces the Corps Roman numeral. The First Cavalry Division insignia consists of a yellow shield, with a black diagonal bar, and a black profile of a horse's head.

Insignia of the Divisions—Plate I



First



Second



Third



Fourth



Fifth



Sixth

Insignia of the Divisions—Plate II



Seventh



Eighth



Ninth



Tenth



Eleventh



Twelfth

Insignia of the Divisions—Plate III



Thirteenth



Fourteenth



Eighteenth



Nineteenth



Twenty-sixth



Twenty-seventh

Insignia of the Divisions—Plate IV



Twenty-eighth



Twenty-ninth



Thirtieth



Thirty-first



Thirty-second



Thirty-third

Insignia of the Divisions—Plate V



Thirty-fourth



Thirty-fifth



Thirty-sixth



Thirty-seventh



Thirty-eighth



Thirty-ninth

Insignia of the Divisions—Plate VI



Fortieth



Forty-first



Forty-second



Forty-third



Forty-fourth



Forty-fifth

Insignia of the Divisions—Plate VII



Seventy-sixth



Seventy-seventh



Seventy-eighth



Seventy-ninth



Eightieth



Eighty-first

Insignia of the Divisions—Plate VIII



Eighty-second



Eighty-third



Eighty-fourth



Eighty-fifth



Eighty-sixth



Eighty-seventh

Insignia of the Divisions—Plate IX



Eighty-eighth



Eighty-ninth



Ninetieth



Ninety-first



Ninety-second



Ninety-third

Insignia of the Divisions—Plate X



Ninety-fourth



Ninety-fifth



Ninety-sixth



Ninety-seventh



Ninety-eighth



Ninety-ninth

Insignia of the Divisions—Plate XI



One Hundredth



One Hundred First



One Hundred Second



One Hundred Third



One Hundred Fourth

Special Unit Insignia—Plate I



Fourth Cavalry



*Eleventh
Quartermaster*



*Fifty-first
Signal*



Sixteenth Infantry



First Ordnance



Fourth Engineers

Special Unit Insignia—Plate II

Twenty-fifth
Bombardment Squadron



Twelfth
Field Artillery



Fifty-sixth
Coast Artillery



Twentieth
Bombardment Squadron



Ninety-sixth
Bombardment Squadron



Ninety-seventh
Observation Squadron



Special Unit Insignia—Plate III



Anti-aircraft unit,
Battery B, Coast
Artillery Corps,
Fort Bliss, Texas.



Twenty-eighth Air Base
Group, Forty-sixth
Bombardment Group,
Sixteenth Bombard-
ment Wing, Bowman
Field, Louisville, Ky.



Anti-tank Company,
Sixteenth Infantry,
Fort Devens, Mass.

These are three of the many special insignia designed by the Walt Disney Studios.

Insignia of Titles and Rank

Most military titles are derived from Latin, the language of ancient Rome. For instance, the word "captain" comes from "caput," or the "head" of a body of men. A "lieutenant" held, "tenant," the authority in place, "lies," of the "captain." Insignia accompanying these titles are of much more recent origin.

In earlier days officers were distinguished by the gold braid and other showiness of their clothes. Epaulettes, three or four colors, ribbons and brass buttons were the fashion. With the coming of long-distance firearms, these brilliant outfits made excellent targets, so they were soon discarded for less conspicuous markings.

The stars worn by General officers of the U. S. Army date from 1780. The eagle worn by a Colonel and the oak leaves worn by a Lieutenant Colonel and Major have been in use over 100 years. The bars used by Captains and Lieutenants have been customary since the Mexican War. The chevrons worn by non-commissioned officers were adopted shortly after the War of 1812.

Commissioned officers' insignia of rank are worn on the shoulders. Non-commissioned officers wear their insignia on the upper sleeves. Warrant officers wear their insignia on the coat lapels and cap, plus shoulder bars (see page 6).

(Shoulder insignia and chevrons are shown on pages 42-46.)

Officers' Shoulder Insignia—Plate I



General



Lieut. General



Major General



Brigadier General



Colonel

Shoulder insignia of rank, worn by Commissioned Officers, higher rank to the left.

Officers' Shoulder Insignia—Plate II



Lieut. Colonel



Major



Captain



1st Lieutenant



2nd Lieutenant

Shoulder insignia of rank, worn by Commissioned Officers, higher rank to the left.

Chevrons of Non-Commissioned Officers



Master
Sergeant



First
Sergeant



Technical
Sergeant



Staff
Sergeant



Technician,
Third Grade



Sergeant



Technician,
Fourth Grade



Corporal



Technician,
Fifth Grade



Private,
First Class

Army Brassards

(Bands of cloth worn around the left sleeve by persons on special duty.)



General Staff—Red band for a Division; blue for a Corps, Service Command, or Department; White and Red for an Army; Blue, White, and Red for Headquarters Field Forces and War Department.

Military Police

Red Cross

Veterinary Green Cross

Correspondent—Brassards are also authorized for Photographers, Radio Commentators, Correspondent Chauffeurs, etc.

Army Decorations and Medals

U. S. Army decorations and medals are worn only on dress occasions. When the service uniform is worn, a ribbon, with the same color arrangement as that of the medal, is used. When civilian clothing is worn, a miniature of the ribbon is pinned in the left lapel of the coat.

If a member of the Army deserves the decoration or medal more than once, he adds a cluster of bronze oak leaves to the medal's ribbon. When one has two medals of different kinds, the "senior," or highest-ranking medal, is worn to the right. Medals are worn on the left breast.

The following decorations are listed in the order of merit and rank.

Congressional Medal of Honor. The United States's highest decoration. Grant-

ed to persons who, while in the Army, distinguished themselves at the risk of life, by gallantry and courage, above and beyond the call of duty, in an action involving actual conflict with an armed enemy. Approved by Congress and presented by the President. First awarded in 1862.

Distinguished Service Cross. Awarded persons serving in the Army who distinguish themselves by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

Distinguished Service Medal. Awarded to persons in the Army who distinguish themselves by highly meritorious service to the government in a position involving great responsibility.

Silver Star. Awarded persons who have

Army Decorations and Medals (*Continued*)

been cited for gallantry in action, when the conduct cited is not sufficient to justify the award of the Congressional Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross.

Order of the Purple Heart. Awarded to persons who perform an exceptionally meritorious act of extraordinary fidelity or essential service. First instituted by George Washington in 1782, and revived in 1932.

The *Soldier's Medal* is awarded Army members for heroic action in peace time. The medal is bronze, on which is an eagle, with stars to the eagle's left and right. The ribbon has two broad blue outer stripes, and a center of narrow red and white stripes.

Distinguished Flying Cross. Awarded to

persons who, while engaging in flight in a military aircraft, distinguish themselves by courage and heroism.

Silver badges are awarded officers and men for skill and proficiency in the use of various weapons, such as the rifle, pistol and automatic rifle. They are divided into three grades, Marksman, Sharpshooter and Expert, with Expert ranking the highest. For each weapon in which the soldier qualifies, he is entitled to add a bar below the medal, on which is engraved the name of the weapon in which it was earned. The three grades are shown on page 57.

The pictures shown on page 56 are the service ribbons of medals awarded for services in wars in which the United States has participated during the last 50 years.

Decorations and Medals—Plate I



Left to Right, Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross (with Oak Leaves), Distinguished Service Medal.

Decorations and Medals—Plate II



Left to Right, Silver Star, Order of the Purple Heart, Soldier's Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross.

Decorations and Medals—Plate III

Service Ribbons



Soldier's Medal



Silver Star



Distinguished
Service Cross



Medal of Honor



Distinguished
Service Medal



Purple Heart



Distinguished
Flying Cross



American Service



Indian Campaign



Spanish Campaign



Spanish War Service



Cuba Occupation



Puerto Rico Occupation



Philippine Campaign



Philippine
(Congressional)



China Campaign



Cuba Pacification



Mexican Service



Mexican Border
Service



Victory
(World War)

Qualification Badges



Marksmanship



Sharpshooter



Expert

(Another bar is added for each weapon in which the soldier qualifies, but they must be won again each year.)

Army Uniforms

ARMED forces of nations have always worn distinctive clothing, first, because of the necessity of telling one's fellow soldiers from those of the enemy; second, because the uniform helps to build the spirit or morale of an army. Early modern uniforms, even for the enlisted men, were elaborate affairs, reflecting the more stately manner in which warfare was conducted. As military operations have become more strenuous and more mechanized, the trend in military tailoring has been toward greater simplicity. Officers pay for their uniforms; enlisted men's clothing is furnished.

U. S. Army uniforms are divided into three classes: dress, service and field. The dress uniform is worn when not on war-

time duty on occasions of ceremony, as may be prescribed by the unit's commandant, and on occasions where civilian evening clothes would be worn. Its base color is dark blue. Colors of the Arm or Service are worn, and gold braid, varying according to rank.

The service uniform, of olive drab, is regulation in wartime. Its buttons are of gold or brass, with the American emblem. It is now authorized for occasions where the dress uniform was formerly worn. Uniforms of officers, non-commissioned officers, enlisted men and warrant officers look much alike, except for the shoulder insignia of rank worn by officers. Use of Sam Browne belts developed from the days when all officers wore swords. They

Army Uniforms (*Continued*)

may still be worn by officers who own them, but are no longer purchased. A cloth belt with brass buckle may be worn instead.

The field uniform is a modification of the service uniform, usually with leggings. It is designed for comfortable wear while on duty in maneuvers or combat.

For summer wear the army prescribes uniforms of khaki or a dress uniform of white which may be worn in the tropics (but not when on duty). For winter wear, various types of fur-lined headgear are approved. Ski togs are issued for maneuvers in northern areas. There are other variations of the uniform, such as breeches, boots and spurs for the Cavalry, flying outfits for the aviators, special padded

helmets and jackets for members of the Armored Divisions, and fatigue uniforms, of blue denim or olive drab, for enlisted men, worn while working out in the open. Other modifications and additions, such as pith helmets, are provided for service in the tropics.

Members of the Nurse Corps of the Army rank as commissioned officers, from Second Lieutenant to Colonel. The latter rank is that held by the Chief of the Corps. Nurses wear their insignia of rank and the insignia of their service, the Medical Department badge, with an "N," on the white collar of their white uniforms. Outer coats and capes are blue. Regardless of rank, an Army nurse is addressed as "Nurse."

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